

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

—On the 8th, Mr. Pettigrew, V.P., in the chair, communications were read, amongst others, from Messrs. Barton and Bergne, relating to coins found in the Isle of Wight, resembling very closely those of our Henry III. and some other English and Scotch kings of about that time, but bearing the names of Flemish towns, and apparently coined by the princes of that nation. Mr. Barton affirms them to be good and true money, but Mr. Bergne considers they are imitations, either struck by the princes to obtain the profit of mintage, or by them or some private individual for the purpose of circulating light or base coins. From Mr. Lott, on some Roman coins found during an excavation for a drain in the upper part of Cheapside. From Mr. C. Baily, on an *ampulla* of lead now in the Museum at York, and which, he supposes, was used to contain the oil used in the Romish sacrament of extreme unction, this appearing to be the subject represented on one side of the vessel. It is of about the thirteenth century. From Mr. Purland, on a representation in the "Historic Reliques," by Mr. J. M. Williams, of one of four candelabra in the cathedral of Ghent, said to have belonged to Charles the First, but which Mr. P. considered to be of earlier workmanship; and from their height corresponding nearly with that of the tomb of Henry VII. in Westminster Abbey, and the similarity, in some respects, of their ornament to that of the tomb, he suggested, they might have been made to form part of the monument, and he strengthened his position by reference to the armorial bearings. Also from Mr. Harrison and the Rev. Mr. Massie, some further remarks on the pavement, &c., at Chester; and from Mr. C. R. Smith, on excavations at Lyme Castle, Kent.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

—On the 14th instant (Mr. Cubitt, president, in the chair), the paper read was "On the Construction of the Permanent Way of Railways; with an Account of the Wrought-iron Permanent Way laid down on the Main line of the North Midland Railway," by Mr. W. H. Barlow. In the discussion which ensued, in which Messrs. Hawkshaw, Brunel, Locke, M.P., Barlow, and Glynn, took part, the relative advantages and disadvantages of the different systems of permanent way in present use were discussed; but it appeared to be a general opinion, that no one system of laying a permanent road could at present claim a great superiority over any other; and that, in reality, much more depended on the good quality of the materials used in its construction than in any particular way of laying it. The objects to be attained were—simplicity of construction, so that there should be as few parts as possible to get out of order, a perfect joint, and economy of maintenance; and though the two first of these desiderata were admitted to be obtained in a permanent way with bridge-shaped rails and longitudinal timber sleepers, it was contended that they were, to some extent, counterbalanced in a road laid in the ordinary manner, with double-headed rails and cast-iron chairs, as, in some instances, after being turned, the second table was found to be more durable than the first. It was announced from the chair, that the president's annual conversation would be held on Tuesday evening, May 28th.

THE BARROW MONUMENT.—The ceremony of laying the first stone of the testimonial to the late Sir John Barrow was to take place at Ulverstone on the 15th. The subscriptions to the testimonial amount to upwards of 1,000*l*. The design selected by the committee is that of Mr. A. Trimen, architect. The stone tower designed by him is to be 100 feet in height, by 40 feet diameter at the base; and as the structure is to be erected on the Hill of Hoad, which rises immediately above the town of Ulverstone, the tower will serve as a sea-mark for the navigation of the dangerous bay of Morecambe.

PROFESSIONAL GOOD FELLOWSHIP.—Any exhibition of good feeling is a true pleasure to us, and we gladly chronicle that the Glasgow Institute of Architects entertained Mr. James Wyllson, one of their body, and not unknown to our readers, at a dinner in the Globe Hotel, on Wednesday, 8th May, on the occasion of his leaving that city to return to London.

LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

At the last meeting of the session of this society, held on Wednesday evening, last week, Mr. Charles Barber delivered an address, in the course of which he said: There cannot be a wider or more noble field of action than the study or practice of architecture. By the study I do not mean the mere imitation of times long gone, but that we should endeavour to find out the reasons why this or that was done, to embrace the same train of thinking, and the reason, as we suppose, why they did it, not looking on the past with sluggish idleness, but to get our minds filled with the same loftiness of sentiment, catching the fervour of the original, we may build a lasting reputation for ourselves and time. The profession has many advantages, and calls for the best efforts of your minds to advance its objects. What would Greece or Rome be at this moment but for the monuments which tell of their greatness and learning?—and depend upon it, what man has done, man may again do, and it is one of the happiest features of your profession, that, in the convulsions of states and nations, which shake society to its foundation, your works will outlive the shock, and be but slightly injured by the hand of time.

AN ARCHITECT'S SIGN-POST.—In a town not 100 miles from Thirsk, a worthy member of the profession has rented a small space of the brick pier between the windows of the principal inn, some 3 feet by 2 feet, for a sign-board, upon which is blazoned in heraldic propriety—"Snooks, Civil Engineer, Architect, Surveyor, Estate Agent, &c., &c." Mrs. Smith, the landress round the corner, is trying to obtain about the same quantity of space at as easy a rate as possible, as she thinks it a most desirable position for an artistic panel, showing a view of that useful engineering work so coveted by her profession, and under which will be inscribed—"MANGLING DONE HERE."

THE BURY MECHANICS' INSTITUTION AND ATHENÆUM.—Tenders are now being obtained for this building, which is proposed to be erected under the direction of Mr. Sydney Smirke, (not Joshua Smirke, as stated by our local informant a fortnight ago,) at the expense of a number of the gentlemen of that rapidly increasing and prosperous town. The Earl of Derby, Sir Robert Peel, and others are munificent contributors. The site, which was given by the nobleman above named, adjoins a somewhat extensive range of public buildings which have been erected under the same architect, for Lord Derby, comprising assembly rooms, court-house, hotel, estate office, &c.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.—The bill of the Watford Spring Water Company, was presented in the Commons on Tuesday for reading a second time; but on the representation of Sir G. Grey, that the Board of Health's report was now almost ready, and of Lord Ashley, that it would develop new sources of supply, and a mode of administration five times cheaper than that proposed by the Watford scheme, the bill was thrown out by a majority of 196 to 90 votes. The bill for the Henley-on-Thames scheme was then brought forward for second reading, and was also rejected by a majority of 226 to 116.

OPENING ST. PAUL'S.—We have been waiting to hear what further steps would be taken to secure this desirable improvement: we trust that it will not be hastily given up. There can be no doubt that the surveyor of the City Commissioners is correct when he says in his report, "that in every particular as regards the traffic, the comfort and convenience to the metropolitan public would be largely increased by opening the western area in front of the cathedral, and widening the thoroughfares around the same." A few days ago an influential deputation waited upon the Dean and Chapter, to make a further representation to them on the subject, when we were rather surprised to find Mr. Cockerell on the side of those who would retain the railing. The result of the interview is not yet known.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the above society, on Wednesday last week, Mr. Portal (the secretary) read the report, which stated that a plan proposed by the Northamptonshire Architectural Society, for forming a union of architectural societies, was under the consideration of the committee. The report went on to state that the secretaries

had lately inspected the restorations in progress at St. Matthew's Church, Great Milton, well worthy a visit on account of the curious frescoes daily laid bare; and while it was to be regretted that the length of the wall pieces obstructed the view of the windows, and that the ancient altar-stone which had been discovered in the nave was not, as at Garrington, to be restored to its proper place, still on the whole the greatest praise was due to the whole work, which was substantial and in good taste. Mr. Lygon, of Christ Church, then read a paper on "Fonts." During a conversation which ensued, it transpired that in the Cathedral Church of Christ, in Oxford, there is no font,—the *alms dish*, which ordinarily stands on the altar, being used for the rite of baptism.

THE WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY.—A correspondent complains of the omission of the Lady members from the list of members at the beginning of the catalogue, and their classification as *Honorary* members. It cannot have been done, we suppose, without the vote of the whole body.

THE VALUE OF VALUERS AT AN LEIGH VALUATION.—The guardians of the Larne Union, Belfast, have advertised for a "revising valuator," to value new houses, &c., and they offer ten shillings a day, including car hire! We have received several indignant letters from the local surveyors.

THE NAILORS' STRIKE has extended from Sedgley throughout the whole district of Bilston, Tipton, Dudley, Oldbury, Halesowen, and Stourbridge. Many thousands are out of employ. "The general feeling of all other classes," says the *Worcester Journal*, "is that the nailmakers are oppressed."

OLD HOUSES.—I am glad to hear you have got a house, . . . and still more, that it is an old house. I love old houses best, for the sake of the odd closets and cupboards, and good thick walls that don't let the wind blow in, and little out-of-the-way polygonal rooms, with great beams running across the ceiling, old heart of oak, that has outlasted half a score generations, and chimney-pieces with the date of the year carved above them, and huge fireplaces that warmed Englishmen before the House of Hanover came over. The most delightful associations that ever made me feel, and think, and fall a-dreaming, are excited by old buildings,—not absolute ruins, but in a state of decline. Even the clipt yews interest me, and if I found one, in any garden that should become mine, in the shape of a peacock, I should be as proud to keep his tail well spread as the man who first carved him. In truth, I am more disposed to connect myself by sympathy with the ages which are past, and by hope with those that are to come, than to vex and irritate myself by any lively interest about the existing generation.—*Soutkey*.

ROOTS CHOKING DRAINS.—In a recent case, where some poplar and larch trees stood about 16 to 18 feet from the line of a main drain, laid through a field, it was found that in two years the drain had become choked with roots; and it is believed that in many instances where drainage has not produced those improvements in land which were anticipated, and even where hedge-rows cross or adjoin any portion of a main drain, the cause may be an obstruction of this nature. In the case quoted, however, the precaution of placing vertical pipes at the junction of each of the parallel drains with the main drain, aided greatly in pointing out the cause. The drains in this case are said to have been made of horse-shoe tiles, well laid, and fitting closely at the joints.

TENDERS

Sent in for restorations to Church, Towersey, Buckinghamshire; taking down South Porch and building New Tower. Mr. Cranstone, Architect.

	Tower.	Church.
Hope, Oxford	478 8 0	4341 8 0
Flowerman and Lock, ditto		397 0 0
Stones, Thame	419 5 3	418 11 0
Holland, ditto	318 8 0	399 10 0
Chapman, Hadenham	406 9 8	358 0 8

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

To be held during the ensuing week

TUESDAY, May 21.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, May 23.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.